



## **Transportation Bond Issue on the Ballot on November 4, 2014**

### **Ballot Question**

#### **Transportation Bonds**

Shall the Board of Supervisors contract a debt, borrow money and issue bonds of Fairfax County, Virginia, in addition to bonds previously authorized for transportation improvements and facilities, in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$100,000,000 for the purpose of providing funds to finance the cost of constructing, reconstructing, improving and acquiring transportation facilities, including improvements to primary and secondary State highways, improvements related to transit, improvements for pedestrians and bicycles, and ancillary related improvements and facilities?

### **Explanation**

Virginia law permits the Fairfax County government to borrow money to buy land and construct projects by issuing general obligation bonds. General obligation bonds are sold to investors, and the bonds are repaid over time with future County revenues. Money received from the sale of bonds is used to fund many County projects. Bond financing permits the costs of those County projects to be repaid over a period of years. However, before incurring such a debt, County voters must authorize the County to borrow those funds.

Fairfax County voters will be asked to vote YES or NO on a transportation bond question in the November 4, 2014, general election. The question asks voters to allow the County to borrow up to \$100 million to fund the construction, reconstruction, improvement and acquisition of transportation facilities. If a majority of voters approves the question, the County would be allowed to issue bonds to fund transportation projects, including roadway, pedestrian, bicycle, and transit improvements. The proceeds of the bonds could be used to construct transportation facilities for vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian access throughout the County; acquisition of land for transportation improvements; construction of transit capital improvements; and other transportation-related improvements. More specifically, the County's current plans for the proceeds of bonds that may be authorized by this referendum are set forth below. The County may in the future alter these specific plans, but in such a case the County would have to use the funds for a purpose described in the ballot question.

On January 28, 2014, the Board of Supervisors approved \$1.4 billion in multimodal transportation priorities for the next six years. These priorities resulted from extensive community input and these project priorities will be funded from several sources of revenue. Of the entire amount, approximately \$200 million is for bicycle and pedestrian projects. The proceeds of the bonds to be authorized by this referendum could be used to fund \$100 million of those project priorities.

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Of the \$100 million, approximately \$16 million would be spent on spot roadway improvements across the County. These projects are intended to increase capacity, reduce congestion, improve safety, and improve transit access. Spot roadway improvements may include adding or lengthening turn lanes, upgrading traffic signals, and enhancing accessibility.

Approximately \$78 million would be spent on pedestrian improvements throughout the County. The goal of the proposed pedestrian improvements is to improve capacity, enhance safety, and complete missing pedestrian links connecting neighborhoods, and improve access to schools, Metrorail stations, and activity centers. These types of improvements include constructing missing sidewalk and trail links, and intersection improvements.

Approximately \$6 million would fund bicycle and trail improvements across the County. These improvements are proposed to enhance safety and complete missing links providing connectivity between neighborhoods, transit facilities, activity centers, schools, and parks. These types of improvements include developing new bicycle facilities, constructing trails, and adding bicycle parking.

**This explanation was prepared, printed, and made available at voter registration sites  
and at election polling places in accordance with Virginia Code § 24.2-687**